REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed on March 12, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. To further the prosecution of this Application, Applicants submit the following amendments as well as remarks discussing patentability of rejected and newly added claims. Applicants respectfully request allowance.

Claims 1-20 were previously pending in the subject Application. Claims 21-32 are being added by way of this amendment. Thus, after entry of this Amendment, claims 1-32 will be pending. No new matter was added to the application when amending or adding these claims. Also, the submission of any amendments should not be interpreted as acquiescing to any of the rejections.

The following remarks address the rejections of claims 1-20 as set out in the present Office Action and patentability of newly added claims 21-32. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Summary of an Embodiment of the Invention

Prior to discussion of the pending claims, the Applicants would like to briefly discuss an illustrative embodiment of the present invention. One embodiment of the present invention provides techniques and mechanisms that enable the transfer of information between logic entities (e.g., groups of processing logic instructions) that operate within different browser pages in the same browser.

More specifically, a web browser can load a first browser page (e.g., web page) containing one or more logic entities configured in accordance with invention. The logic entities may be, for example, JavaScript routines. One such JavaScript routine can exist within a first browser page and can define one or more data elements such as JavaScript variables. The JavaScript routine can retrieve values for the data elements from a browser page identifier associated

with the first browser page. The browser page identifier may be, for example, a URL associated with the first browser page that includes state information appended to the end of the URL that contains the values for the data elements to be accessed by the JavaScript routine. The JavaScript routine retrieves the values for the data elements, for example, by parsing the URL to extract the values for the data elements from the state information appended to the end of the URL.

Another logic entity (e.g., another JavaScript routine) configured in accordance with the invention and incorporated into a browser page detects the invocation of browser processing to access another browser page. As an example, a JavaScript routine operating as such a logic entity can be activated when the user of the web browser selects (e.g., clicks on) a link to navigate to another browser page. In response to a browser page selection, the JavaScript routine dynamically and automatically generates a browser page identifier, such as a URL, for a second browser page (i.e., the browser page to which the user desires to navigate to next from the current page), from within the first browser page (i.e., by the JavaScript activated in response to the navigation commend in the page that the user is currently viewing). As such, the browser page identifier (e.g., a URL) is dynamically and automatically generated.

During the generation of the browser page identifier, the JavaScript routine of the invention performing this process extracts a value for one or more data elements that are required to be passed to another logic entity that will operate within the second browser page. The JavaScript routine of the first browser page appends the values for the data elements (e.g., as a string in which each value is delineated with a predetermined character such as "&") onto a page designator for the second browser page, in order to dynamically create the URL for the second browser page that contains the values of data elements from the first browser page. The JavaScript routine then invokes access to the second browser page using the browser page identifier which was just dynamically created.

In this manner, a URL created according to the invention can contain values for data elements from the first browser page which are passed to an awaiting logic entity within the second browser page for extraction from the URL of the second browser page. Also, in this manner, logic entities such as JavaScript routines contained within different browser pages of the same browser can pass state information such as values for data elements using browser page identifier's which themselves cause navigation of the browser from one browser page to another.

Rejections of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) based on the teachings of Shelton, (U.S. Patent 5,954,798). Applicants are appreciative of the Examiner's review of pending claim 1 and respectfully request further consideration of same in view of the following discussion pointing out why claim 1 is unique over the cited prior art.

As discussed in the Abstract, Shelton describes a mechanism for dependably managing web synchronization and tracking operations among multiple consumer browsers. In general a session is created for each of one of the consumer browsers when an individual consumer downloads an initial web page from an HTTP server. A unique ID is assigned to that session. After the session has been created for an individual browser, the information about all activities from that consumer browser will be recorded into the session. This mechanism overcomes the difficulty to organize and manage the activities from the multiple consumer browsers that are stateless in nature. An administration browser can select any one of the sessions created, display the activities previously performed in that session, and conduct bi-direction synchronization with the consumer browser associated with the selected session.

Claim 1 recites that the steps take place "In a browser." This means that a single browser supports "a method for transferring information between logic

entities in browser pages." In other words, the first and second browser pages as further recited in claim 1 are retrieved via a single browser. In comparison, note that the management application in Shelton involves keeping track of when each of multiple browsers retrieves different web pages (column 7 line 42 to column 8 line 23), not passing a "value" associated with a first browser page to a logic entity associated with a second browser page (both pages being in the same browser) as in the claimed invention.

As discussed in Shelton, a web browser 114A sends a URL to request retrieval of a web page from a server (column 7 lines 49-51). Master applet 124A opens a socket for browser 114A (column 8 lines 10-12). Thereafter, Master Applet 126A sends a command along with a unique identifier to WTS server 144 to identify that web page 214 has been loaded (column 8 lines 14-17). The WTS server 144 issues a time stamp and stores the URL as well as the time stamp created for browser 114A(column 8 lines 17-20). The URL, command, and time stamp are stored in a history list (column 8 lines 20-23). Thus, the unique identifier in Shelton identifies a given browser for the purpose of tracking when a user looks at a particular web page.

As mentioned, Master Applet 126A in Shelton sends a command along with the a unique identifier (associated with the browser) to WTS server 144 to identify that web page 214 has been loaded (column 8 lines 14-17). In contradistinction, the claimed invention involves "In a browser, ... generating a browser page identifier for a second browser page, the browser page identifier including the value for the data element." An entity such as a user invokes "access to a second browser page using the browser page identifier, the second browser page including a second application logic entity." In response to invocation of access to the second browser page via use of the browser page identifier (e.g. a user clicking on a URL in one web page to retrieve another a second web page), the browser retrieves "the value of the data element from the browser page identifier for use by the second application logic entity" in the

browser. Thus, according to the claimed invention, the recited data element in the browser page identifier is passed from a first application logic entity (associated with the first browser page) to a second application logic (associated with the second browser page) in the same browser. In contradistinction and as mentioned, Master Applet 126A (web browser) in Shelton sends a command along with the unique identifier (associated with the browser) to WTS server 144 to identify that web page 214 has been loaded (column 8 lines 14-17). These are not equivalent concepts as those recited by claim 1.

Also, Applicants would like to point out further that claim 1 recites "generating a browser page identifier for a second browser page, the browser page identifier including the value for the data element." This means that the browser of the invention generates a browser page identifier associated with a second browser page. There is no generating a browser page identifier in Shelton. The browser 114 in Shelton (column 8, lines 14-16) creates a command including a URL and a unique ID of the browser. The command generated by the browser in Shelton is used to inform the remotely located (e.g., not in the same browser) WTS server 144 that a web page has been loaded. The command thus does not refer to a second browser page as in the claimed invention. The claimed invention therefore includes further limitations not cited, taught, or suggested by Shelton and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention provides utility not taught or suggested by Shelton. For example, the claimed invention enables a first browser page to pass a "value" from one logic entity (associated with a first browser page) to another logic entity (associated with a second browser page) in the same browser. Thus, the "value" associated with the first browser page can be used by the second browser page. Passing the "value" involves including the value in the corresponding browser page identifier, which is used to invoke the second browser page.

Based on the aforementioned remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in claim 1 is neither anticipated nor obvious because it includes a unique and useful configuration not taught or suggested by Shelton or any other reference of record. Thus, in view of the foregoing discussion, Applicants submit that claim 1 in its original form is patentably distinct and advantageous over the cited prior art, and the lack of novelty rejection should be withdrawn. Accordingly, allowance of claim 1 as well as corresponding dependent claims 2-9 is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 includes similar limitations as recited in claim 1 above. For applicable reasons as discussed above, claim 10 and corresponding dependent claims 11-18 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

Claim 19 and claim 20 each includes similar limitations as recited in claim 1 above. For applicable reasons as discussed above, claims 19 and 20 are patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

Applicants would like to point out that the pending dependent claims further distinguish the claimed invention over the cited prior art. For example, claim 3 recites "performing an operation that decides whether to contact the host computer for assistance in response to the request signal, a result of the operation directing the data communications device not to contact the host computer in response to the request signal." The Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 based on the teachings of Shelton, et al., (U.S. Patent 5,954,798).

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 3 in view of the teachings of Shelton. Claim 3 recites "retrieving the value for the data element from a browser page identifier identifying the first browser page." An example of this would be a URL used by the browser to retrieve the first browser page. The URL (or, in terms of claim language, "first browser page") includes a value, which is

retrieved and used in the "second browser page identifier" (see claim 1). According to the cited passages at column 8, lines 14-16, Shelton involves storing, in a command, a URL of a web page loaded in browser 114 as well as an ID of the browser so that the manager computer (to which the command is sent) can track what web sites a particular user (or browser) visits. There is no teaching or suggestion that a "value" in one browser page identifier is retrieved and stored in a "second browser page identifier" as in the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claim 3 and claim 12.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 4 in view of the teachings of Shelton. Claim 4 recites "repeating the steps of parsing and assigning for each value contained in the browser page identifier such that all data elements containing a value within the browser page identifier receive an assignment of their respective value parsed from the browser page identifier." As discussed above for claim 3, Shelton does not parse a browser page identifier associated with the first browser page. There would not be any need in Shelton to repeat the steps of "parsing and assigning" because Shelton does not retrieve "values" from a first browser page identifier and store them in a second browser page identifier as in the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request allowance of claim 4 and claim 13.

Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 5 in view of the teachings of Shelton. Claim 5 recites "extracting a value for each data element shared between the first application logic entity and the second application logic entity to create a value array." Shelton does not share a value (i.e., data element) between a first application logic entity associated with a first browser page and a second application logic entity associated with a second browser page, both application logic entities of which are associated with the same browser. Instead, Shelton discloses sending a command from a browser (a first entity) over a network to WTS server 144 (a second entity), which are thus not in the same browser. Further, as previously discussed, Shelton does not disclose extracting

a value (nor an array of values) associated with a first browser page and appending the value(s) to a browser page identifier of a second browser page. The generated command in Shelton including the URL and ID is not equivalent to a second browser page. More specifically, the generated command in Shelton is a message from the browser 114 to the server 144 indicating that a particular first browser page has been loaded. The URL of the first browser web page in Shelton is sent to the server 144. The command is not a second web page identifier. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claim 5 and claim 14.

Claims 7 and 16 each recite "detecting a navigation command to navigate to the second browser page; and wherein the steps of generating and invoking are performed in response to the step of detecting the navigation command to navigate to the second browser page, such that the browser page identifier produced in response to the step of detecting the navigation command includes a value for the data element that is created by the first application logic entity and is passed to the second application logic entity via the browser page identifier." As in claim 1, the office action likens the "browser page identifier" for the second browser page in the claimed invention to the command sent from browser to server in Shelton. Claim 7 recites that "generating ... the browser page identifier" and "invoking" are performed in response to detecting the navigation command. In an example embodiment, this would involve a user retrieving a first browser page (e.g. a web page) and selecting a browser page identifier (e.g., a URL) including the "value" associated with the first browser page to receive a second browser page. This is not supported by Shelton for the reasons discussed above since Shelton does not discuss "generating a browser page identifier" as in the claimed invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and, therefore, request allowance of claim 7 and claim 16.

Regarding claims 8 and 17, Shelton does not disclose transferring "values of data elements" between a first browser page (e.g., a Java routine associated

with a first web page) and a second browser page (e.g., a Java routine associated with a second web page). As discussed, Shelton discloses passing an ID as well as a URL from a browser to a server for the purposes of monitoring hat web pages a user retrieves at a computer. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections and, therefore, request allowance of claim 8 and claim 17.

New Claims 21-32

Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of claims 21-32. Support for claims 21 and 27 can be found at page 10 line 14 through page 11 line 27, figure 1, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification. Support for claims 22 and 28 can be found at page 10 line 14 through page 11 line 27, figure 1, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification. Support for claims 23 and 29 can be found at page 4 lines 20-25, page line 16 through page 13 line 9, figure 1, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification. Support for claims 24 and 30 can be found at page 5 lines 1-5, figure 1, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification. Support for claims 25-26 and 31-32 can be found at pages 15-17, figure 3, as well as elsewhere throughout the specification. Applicants respectfully request that these claims further distinguish the invention over Shelton.

CONCLUSION

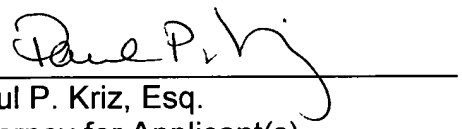
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims as well as newly added claims are in condition for allowance. A Notice to this affect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after reviewing this Response, that the pending claims are not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the Applicant(s) Representative at the number below.

Applicants hereby petition for any extension of time which is required to maintain the pendency of this case. If there is a fee occasioned by this

response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0901.

If the enclosed papers or fees are considered incomplete, the Patent Office is respectfully request(s)ed to contact the undersigned Attorney at (508) 366-9600, in Westborough, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted,



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